

Application No.: 10/509,908

Docket No.: JCLA6965-2

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

Applicants appreciate that claims 20-25 and 30 have been considered to be allowable.

The Office Action rejected claims 17, 18 and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art (APA) in view of Makihara et al. (U. S. Patent 5,600,171; hereinafter Makihara)

Applicants have amended claims 17 and 21 to recite allowable features, originally recited in allowable claims 20 and 21, while claim 20 has been currently cancelled. Applicants have also amended claim 22 to correct typographic error.

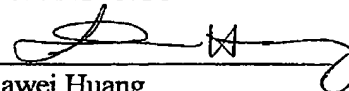
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the pending claims 17-19 and 21-30 of the present application patently define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Date: 1/16/2007

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Respectfully submitted,
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